

Voiture Nationale 40&8

# VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

## Ken Lafleur – Chef de Chemin de Fer



Chef de Chemin de Fer is a much more interesting position than I ever imagined. Correspondants remembering their first term in office have an inkling of what it's like.

Our newly appointed and elected Voyageurs are in full-swing promoting our Programs and events. The timeliness and quality of monthly letters of Directeurs Nationale and Sous Directeurs Nationale have been commendable, encouraging, and inspiring to me.

Patricia and I have just returned from beautiful and charming Savannah, Georgia, having enjoyed Southern Hospitality in full bloom at the Third Shamrock Wreck. The Wreck was elegantly hosted by Voiture and Cabane 567. Jim Stauffiger, Chef of V. 567, is a gracious host. Tommy Fordham, Grand Chef du Georgia and Drapeau Nationale, was on hand for the Wreck and for the Grande Voiture Cheminot on Sunday morning. He has an absolutely beautiful pin. Get



your hands on one if you can.

Our four candidates for Chef de Chemin de Fer 2018-2019 (Rick Williams, Wally Ciokajlo, Jr., John Kaiserian, Michael McGary) were all in attendance. Wally has a Polish last name every bit as difficult

to decipher as Kwiatkowski. Once he and his wife pronounce it to you a few times and point out that one should think of Chicago when saying it then all is well.

Pat Beamer (Chef de Chemin de Fer Passé-2014), and Larry Butts (Aide de Camp, and Georgia's Greatest Football Fan) were especially helpful that weekend. Larry is exceptionally pleasant to be around when Georgia has a 7-0 record and is ranked number 3 in the nation.

The 70th Annual Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham Alabama is scheduled for November 10 and 11, 2017, and Patricia and I plan to attend. Larry informed me that our Georgia Voiture 217 Rolling Stock will be leading the Parade.

At Veterans Day activities look for an opportunity to invite veterans to join us, have fun with us, and continue to serve our Country.

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Each year my video production company is hired to go to Washington, D.C. with the eighth grade class from Clinton, Wisconsin where I grew up, to videotape their trip. I greatly enjoy visiting our nation's capitol, and each year I take some special memories back with me. This fall's trip was especially memorable.

On the last night of our trip, we stopped at the **Iwo Jima memorial**. This memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world and depicts one of the most famous photographs in history—that of the six brave men raising the American flag at the top of Mount Surabachi on the Island of Iwo Jima, Japan during WW II. Over one hundred students and chaperones piled off the buses and headed towards the memorial. I noticed a solitary figure at the base of the statue, and as I got closer he asked, “What’s your name and where are you guys from?”

I told him that my name was Michael Powers and that we were from Clinton, Wisconsin. “Hey, I’m a Cheesehead, too! Come gather around Cheeseheads, and I will tell you a story.”

James Bradley just happened to be in Washington, D.C. to speak at the memorial the following day. He was there that night to say good-night to his dad, who had previously passed away, but whose image is part of the statue. He was just about to leave when he saw the buses pull up. I videotaped him as he spoke to us, and received his permission to share what he said from my videotape. It is one thing to tour the incredible monuments filled with history in Washington, D.C. but it is quite another to get the kind of insight we received that night. When all had gathered around he reverently began to speak. Here are his words from that night:

“My name is James Bradley and I’m from Antigo, Wisconsin.



## Memorial to a Flag Raising



sin. My dad is on that statue, and I just wrote a book called *Flags of Our Fathers* which is #5 on the New York Times Best Seller list right now. It is the story of the six boys you see behind me. Six boys raised the flag. The first guy putting the pole in the ground is Harlon Block. Harlon was an all-state football player. He enlisted in the Marine Corps with all the senior members of his football team. They were off to play another type of game, a game called “War.” But it didn’t turn out to be a game. Harlon, at the age of twenty-one, died with his intestines in his hands. I don’t say that to gross you out; I say that because there are generals who stand in front of this statue and talk about the glory of war. You guys need to know that most of the boys in Iwo Jima were seventeen, eighteen, and nineteen years old.

(He pointed to the statue)

You see this next guy? That’s Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire. If you took Rene’s helmet off at the moment this photo was taken, and looked in the webbing of that helmet, you would find a photograph. A photograph of his girlfriend. Rene put that in there for protection, because he was scared. He was eighteen years old. Boys won the battle of Iwo Jima. Boys. Not old men.

The next guy here, the third guy in this tableau, was Sergeant Mike Strank. Mike is my hero. He was the hero of all these guys. They called him the “old man” because he was so old. He was already twenty-four. When Mike would motivate his boys in training camp, he didn’t say, “Let’s go kill the enemy” or “Let’s die for our country.” He knew he was talking to little boys. Instead he would say, “You do what I say, and

I’ll get you home to your mothers.”

The last guy on this side of the statue is Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona. Ira Hayes walked off Iwo Jima. He went into the White House with my dad. President Truman told him, “You’re a hero.” He told reporters, “How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies hit the island with me and only twenty-seven of us walked off alive?”

So you take your class at school. 250 of you spending a year together having fun, doing everything together. Then all 250 of you hit the beach, but only twenty-seven of your classmates walk off alive. That was Ira Hayes. He had images of horror in his mind. Ira Hayes died dead drunk, face down at the age of thirty-two, ten years after this picture was taken.

The next guy, going around the statue, is Franklin Sousley from Hilltop, Kentucky, a fun-lovin’ hillbilly boy. His best friend, who is now 70, told me, “Yeah, you know, we took two cows up on the porch of the Hilltop General Store. Then we strung wire across the stairs so the cows couldn’t get down. Then we fed them Epsom salts. Those cows crapped all night.”

Yes, he was a fun-lovin’ hillbilly boy. Franklin died on Iwo Jima at the age of nineteen. When the telegram came to tell his mother that he was dead, it went to the Hilltop General Store. A barefoot boy ran that telegram up to his mother’s farm. The neighbors could hear her scream all night and into the morning. The neighbors lived a quarter of a mile away.

The next guy, as we continue to go around the statue, is my dad, John Bradley from Antigo, Wisconsin, where I was raised. My dad lived until

1994, but he would never give interviews. When Walter Cronkite’s producers, or the New York Times would call, we were trained as little kids to say, “No, I’m sorry sir, my dad’s not here. He is in Canada fishing. No, there is no phone there, sir. No, we don’t know when he is coming back.”

My dad never fished or even went to Canada. Usually he was sitting right there at the table eating his Campbell’s soup, but we had to tell the press that he was out fishing. He didn’t want to talk to the press. You see, my dad didn’t see himself as a hero. Everyone thinks these guys are heroes, ’cause they are in a photo and a monument. My dad knew better. He was a medic. John Bradley from Wisconsin was a caregiver. In Iwo Jima he probably held over 200 boys as they died, and when boys died in Iwo Jima, they writhed and screamed in pain.

When I was a little boy, my third grade teacher told me that my dad was a hero. When I went home and told my dad that, he looked at me and said, “I want you always to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not come back. DID NOT come back.”

So that’s the story about six nice young boys. Three died on Iwo Jima, and three came back as national heroes. Overall, 7000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in the history of the Marine Corps. My voice is giving out, so I will end here. Thank you for your time.”

Suddenly the monument wasn’t just a big old piece of metal with a flag sticking out of the top. It came to life before our eyes with the heart-felt words of a son who did indeed have a father who was a hero. Maybe not a hero in his own eyes, but a hero nonetheless.

### Voiture 15 Nurses Training



Voiture 15, Grande du Ohio, awarded two Nurses Training Awards for the 2017/2018 year at its Promenade on October 2, 2017. Stipends were awarded to Kristen Foor and Holly Webster. L to R: Voiture 15 Correspondant and Nurses Training Coordinator Ernest Massie, awardees Kristin Foor and Holly Webster, and Voiture 15 Chef de Gare Malcolm Glasgow.

### Voiture 903 Nurses Training



The 40 & 8 Voiture 903 of Clinton County has supported nurses training since World War I. Nurses scholarships are awarded to deserving individuals willing to undergo formal training and make a career of that noble profession. Scholarships awarded for the Fall are seen along with Amber Johnston who graduated and received her Registered Nurses lapel pin.

Front row, left to right, Jordon Peasley, Amber Johnston, Nicole Werts, and Cynthia Bardo. Inducted into office for the 2017 and 2018 year, in the back row, Bernie Zbicki Commissaire Intendent, Bill Lantz Chef De Train, Perry Haines Chef DeGare, Jay Young Conductor, Nelson Haight Lampiste.

### Voiture 266 Child Welfare



Members of Voiture 266, Grand du Texas, receive an appreciation award from Principal Jody Jost, Halstead Elementary School, Copperas Cove, TX. The award was for school supplies donated by Voiture 266 as part of their Child Welfare Program.

### Voiture 1510, KS



Voiture Locale 1510 Donation to the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Domiciliary in Leavenworth, KS April 2017. 62 baseballs, 2 Catcher's Mitts, 11 Aluminum bats, 2 Catcher's Equipment Bag, 2 Catchers Helmet, 2 set Catcher's equipment, 4 canvas bags, 10 baseball gloves. Pictured; Gonzalo Reyes with Sharon L. Eddy.

## Presidential Biographies

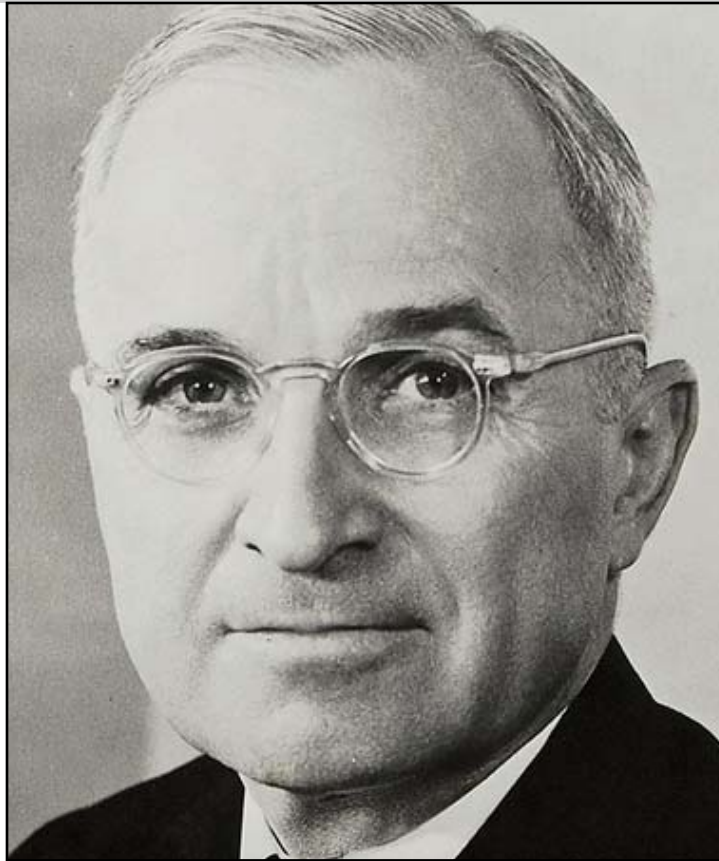
During his few weeks as Vice President, **Harry S. Truman** scarcely saw President Roosevelt, and received no briefing on the development of the atomic bomb or the unfolding difficulties with Soviet Russia. Suddenly these and a host of other wartime problems became Truman's to solve when, on April 12, 1945, he became President. He told reporters, "I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me."

Truman was born in Lamar, Missouri, in 1884. He grew up in Independence, and for 12 years prospered as a Missouri farmer.

He went to France during World War I as a captain in the Field Artillery. Returning, he married Elizabeth Virginia Wallace, and opened a haberdashery in Kansas City.

Active in the Democratic Party, Truman was elected a judge of the Jackson County Court (an administrative position) in 1922. He became a Senator in 1934. During World War II he headed the Senate war investigating committee, checking into waste and corruption and saving perhaps as much as 15 billion dollars.

As President, Truman made some of the most crucial decisions in history. Soon after V-E Day, the war against Japan had reached its final stage. An urgent plea to Japan to surrender was rejected. Truman, after consultations with his advisers, ordered atomic bombs dropped on cities devoted to war work. Two were Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Jap-



anese surrender quickly followed.

In June 1945 Truman witnessed the signing of the charter of the United Nations, hopefully established to preserve peace.

Thus far, he had followed his predecessor's policies, but he soon developed his own. He presented to Congress a 21-point program, proposing the expansion of Social Security, a full-employment program, a permanent Fair Employment Practices Act, and public housing and slum clearance. The program, Truman wrote, "symbolizes for me my assumption of the office of President in my own right." It became known as the Fair Deal.

Dangers and crises marked the foreign scene as Truman campaigned successfully in 1948. In foreign affairs he was already providing his most effective leadership.

In 1947 as the Soviet Union pressured Turkey and, through guerrillas, threatened to take over Greece, he asked Congress to aid the two countries, enunciating the program that bears his name--the Truman Doctrine. The Marshall Plan, named for his Secretary of State, stimulated spectacular economic recovery in war-torn western Europe.

When the Russians blocked the western sectors of Berlin in 1948, Truman created a massive airlift to supply

Berliners until the Russians backed down. Meanwhile, he was negotiating a military alliance to protect Western nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, established in 1949.

In June 1950, when the Communist government of North Korea attacked South Korea, Truman conferred promptly with his military advisers. There was, he wrote, "complete, almost unspoken acceptance on the part of everyone that whatever had to be done to meet this aggression had to be done. There was no suggestion from anyone that either the United Nations or the United States could back away from it."

A long, discouraging struggle ensued as U.N. forces held a line above the old boundary of South Korea. Truman kept the war a limited one, rather than risk a major conflict with China and perhaps Russia.

Deciding not to run again, he retired to Independence; at age 88, he died December 26, 1972, after a stubborn fight for life.



Building Donation Challenge Grand Total \$147,947.12




September 2017 Donations

NAME	VOITURE	GR	AMT
National Americanism Fund			\$ 2,100.00
Ray Duffy	135	WA	\$ 205.00
Voiture 395	395	CA	\$ 100.00
Voiture 1224	1224	NY	\$ 28.00
Voiture 29	29	OH	\$ 25.50
Voiture 1597	1597	GA	\$ 25.00
Voiture 161	161	MI	\$ 25.00
Voiture 1539	1539	AK	\$ 20.00
Voiture 1539	1539	AK	\$ 20.00
Voiture 632	632	IA	\$ 18.00
Voiture 534	534	NY	\$ 17.50
Voiture 96	96	WA	\$ 16.50
Voiture 1204	1204	WI	\$ 10.00
Voiture 906	906	ID	\$ 9.50
Voiture 476	476	NY	\$ 8.75
Voiture 1179	1179	CA	\$ 8.50
Voiture 274	274	LA	\$ 7.00

Happy Halloween!







Voiture Nationale has Gone Social!  
Like, Follow and Re-tweet

To Participate in the 2017 Veterans Day Raffle go to:  
<http://www.fortyandeight.org/408-headlines/>

National Nurses Training Program



The National Nurse Training Club held it's annual meeting at the **98<sup>th</sup> Promenade Nationale** in Bossier City, Louisiana September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The business of the past year was discussed and Grand Voitures were recognized for their successes during this past year. **Report totals for 2016-2017** indicated over **680 Nurses** were in training and **350 had graduated**. The Nurses Training Program reported cash expenditures of over **\$410,000**. Thanks to the support of the Voyageurs Militaire of our "La Societe", the Nurse Training Club donated **\$8,000** to the **Boland Trust Fund** in support of the Nurse Training Program.



Nurse Training Program Awards presented were as follows;

- Voiture 510-Anderson Award** for excellence went to; **Richland County VL-20** of Mansfield, **Grand du Ohio**. Honorable mention to **Heart Land of America VL-3** of **Grand du Missouri**.
- J. Earl Simpson Award** for the Grand with the greatest progress made to Nurse Training went to; **Grand du Florida**. Honorable mention to **Grand du Colorado**.
- Michael R. Verville award** for highest per capita of contribution went to; **Grand du Arizona**. Honorable mention to **Grand du California**.

For **Pin Consignment sales** for the **2018 Nurse Training Pin** year, recognition goes to: **GRAND VOITURE of the Month for SEPTEMBER** "GRAND du WYOMING" **Northwest Region**

Posted earned sales to-date of **50 Pins** for **\$150** and a per-capita of **\$3.13**  
"MERCI, Fellow Voyageurs Militaire", National Secretaire/Treasurer,, **H.T. "Terry" Sharp**